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REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 have been amended herein. New claims 13 and 14 have been added. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) based on being anticipated by US Published Application 2004/0034793 to Yuan and US Published Application 2004/0255156 to Chan et al. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 have been amended herein.

Yuan discloses a device called a media proxy router. As shown in Figures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, and as discussed with respect to all embodiments of Yaun, The media proxy router: i) maintains a "pinhole" through a firewall with each client (or an application server (APS) inside the firewall); ii) forwards signaling between supported clients (through the pinhole that it maintains on the firewall with such supported client); and iii) operates as a relay server for the RTP stream.

With respect to Signaling, (Figure 4 and paragraph [052]), the media proxy router maintains a routing table (pinhole table 330) storing an IP address header for a firewall pinhole to each supported device. In operation, when a signaling message is received by the media proxy router, the media proxy router replaces the IP address header with an IP address header to a pinhole on the firewall to the destination.

With respect to relay of the RTP stream (figure 5 and paragraph [053]), the media proxy router maintains routing table 450 for translating IP headers to the pinhole IP header.

A disadvantage of Yaun that is solved by the applicant's invention, with respect to Signaling, is that the media proxy router must maintain the pinhole to the firewall of each local area network on which a supported device exists.

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The applicant's proxy server may function to Signal, or set up, a call between a first client and a second client – and only needs to maintain a pinhole to the first client which it supports - not both clients as required for operation of the Yuan media proxy router.

The applicant's proxy server exchanges messages with a separate relay server (which performs relay of a RTP stream), exchanges messages with a separate redirect server which provides an address of a second proxy server which supports the second client; and iii) exchanges messages directly with the second proxy server.

In more detail, the applicant's invention as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 7, is directed to proxy server (and a method of operating a proxy server) for establishing a real time streaming media session between a first client and a second client. The first client is served by the proxy server and has a local area network address – meaning it has been assigned an IP address within the group of IP addresses reserved for use by local area networks. The second client is served by a second proxy server.

The method comprises receiving an invite message from the first client over an internet protocol channel. The invite message includes identification of the IP address assigned to the first client and a unique identifier of the second client.

A source IP address extracted from the internet protocol channel is compared to the IP address assigned to the first client. If the IP address extracted from the internet protocol channel does not match the IP assigned to the first client, then identification of a relay server resource, comprising a relay server IP address and port number, is provided to the first client and the second client by:

sending a relay server invite message to a relay server;

receiving a relay server response message, the relay server response message identifying the from a relay server;

sending a redirect invite message to a redirect server, the redirect message including the identification of the second client;

receiving a redirect server response message, the redirect server

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response message including a network address of the second proxy server serving the second client;

sending a forwarding invite message to the network address of the second proxy server, the forwarding invite message comprising session description protocol fields identifying the relay server resource;

receiving an OK response message from the second proxy server;
sending, in response to receiving the OK response from the second proxy server, a second OK response to the first client, the second OK response comprising session description protocol fields identifying the relay server resource.

Chan et al. discloses a firewall controlled proxy which, if installed with the firewall, is able to communicate with other firewall controlled proxies and open firewall pinholes for RTP streams. Communication between two clients, each behind firewalls, requires both firewalls be equipped with the Chan firewall controlled proxy.

Again, the firewall controlled proxy of Chan et al. does not include least the following elements of the applicant's invention as described in claim 1:

sending a relay server invite message to a relay server;
receiving a relay server response message, the relay server response message identifying the from a relay server;

sending a redirect invite message to a redirect server, the redirect message including the identification of the second client;

receiving a redirect server response message, the redirect server response message including a network address of the second proxy server serving the second client.

II. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Claims 1 – 14 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

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Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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